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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/808,861	03/15/2001	Ganesh Basawapatna	A34017-073214.0120	5571

25231 7590 06/16/2005

MARSH, FISCHMANN & BREYFOGLE LLP
3151 SOUTH VAUGHN WAY
SUITE 411
AURORA, CO 80014

EXAMINER	
SALTARELLI, DOMINIC D	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2611	

DATE MAILED: 06/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/808,861	BASAWAPATNA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Dominic D. Saltarelli	2611	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *21 April 2005*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-36* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-36* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed April 21, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that neither Safadi nor Snell disclose a significant reduction in the number of different channels that are sent downstream.

2. In response, examiner notes that Snell does in fact teach reducing the number of channels sent downstream. As described in col. 18 line 60 – col. 19 line 31 in Snell, the nodes receive the complete spectrum of channels from the headend, and then selectively filter out all of the digital service channels, and only remodulate those channels which are to be routed to the particular users of each individual node, reducing the total number of channels sent downstream from each node.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-4, 7-9, 11, 12, 15, 16, 21-24, 27, 28, 31-33, 35, and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Safadi (5,572,517, of record) in view of Snell et al. (5,442,700, of record) [Snell].

Regarding claims 1, 21, 31, and 36, Safadi discloses a system and method for securely communicating multimedia information (fig. 1) from multimedia content sources (fig. 1, Video Information Providers 12) to a plurality of end users (video information users, col. 6, lines 4-6), comprising:

A headend system [point of presence] (fig. 1, remote/local hub 14) receiving multimedia information signals from said content sources (col. 6, lines 16-17) and user authorization information corresponding to said plurality of end users (addressable controller 24 provides the video information user authorization information, col. 7, lines 56-66), combining said multimedia information signals into a headend composite signal containing a multitude of different channels (in-band transport multiplex signal, col. 8, lines 10-22), and generating a secure headend output signal using said user authorization information and said headend composite signal (col. 8, lines 51-65);

A signal distribution system (fig. 1, communication network 10), communicatively coupled to said headend system and receiving said secure headend signal therefrom, and

Customer interface devices (fig. 1, STTs 16, shown in detail in fig. 5), each receiving a composite user signal (on line 96 in fig. 5, col. 14, lines 35-38) and demodulating said composite user signal to an end user signal (for display on television 114, col. 14, lines 35-50).

While Safadi further teaches some intermediate signal processing takes place at intermediate nodes in the signal distribution system (fig. 1, headends 18,

col. 9, lines 55-63), Safadi fails to disclose the signal distribution system includes signal decoders for receiving at least a portion of said secure headend output signal, for converting said signal portion into modulated channel signals if authorized by said user authorization information and output interfaces coupled to said signal decoders and receiving modulated channel signals therefrom, for combining said modulated channel signals into a composite user signal that contains only a small fraction of the multitude of different channels in the headend composite system for transmission to the customer interface devices, wherein the channels in the composite user signal are those that have been requested by the end user via the customer interface device.

In an analogous art, Snell teaches a video distribution system (fig. 32) wherein the signal distribution system includes signal decoders (fig. 32, Node 302), each receiving at least a portion of a headend output signal (from the RF bus in fig. 32) which then decode (decompress) and then modulate the received signal portion into modulated channel signals according to the services to be provided to the customers serviced by the particular decoder (col. 18 line 48 – col. 19 line 17), wherein output interfaces (fig. 32, RF combiners) are coupled to the signal decoders for combining said modulated channel signals into a composite user signal that contains only a small fraction of the multitude of the different channels in the headend composite system (the node only remodulates those digital channels which are needed to serve the customers serviced by the node, col. 19, lines 1-7), wherein the channels in the composite user signal are

those that have been requested by the end user via the customer interface device (the interactive services include user requested video on demand programs ordered via the home interface controller, col. 5 line 55 – col. 6 line 4), providing more efficient utilization of available bandwidth (col. 19, lines 10-31).

It would have been obvious at the time to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the system and method disclosed by Safadi to include in the signal distribution system signal decoders for receiving at least a portion of said secure headend output signal, for converting said signal portion into modulated channel signals if authorized by said user authorization information (as the information is selectively recombined in accordance with the services that are to be provided to the customers serviced by any one particular signal decoder) and output interfaces coupled to said signal decoders and receiving modulated channel signals therefrom, for combining said modulated channel signals into a composite user signal that contains only a small fraction of the multitude of different channels in the headend composite signal, wherein the channels in the composite user signal are those that have been requested by the end user via the customer interface device, for transmission to the customer interface devices, as taught by Snell, for the benefit of more efficiently utilizing the available bandwidth in the signal distribution system.

Regarding claim 11, Safadi discloses a system for securely communicating multimedia information (fig. 1) from multimedia content sources

(fig. 1, Video Information Providers 12) to a plurality of end users (video information users, col. 6, lines 4-6) who share a common loop through communication channel (communication network 10 handles both downstream and upstream communications, col. 6, lines 8-23), comprising:

A multimedia reception system (fig. 1, remote/local hub 14) for receiving multimedia information signals from content sources (col. 6, lines 16-17) and user authorization information corresponding to said plurality of end users (addressable controller 24 provides the video information user authorization information, col. 7, lines 56-66), combining said multimedia information signals into a headend composite signal containing a multitude of different channels (in-band transport multiplex signal, col. 8, lines 10-22), and generating a secure headend output signal using said user authorization information and said headend composite signal (col. 8, lines 51-65);

A signal distribution system (fig. 1, communication network 10), communicatively coupled to said multimedia reception system and receiving said secure headend signal therefrom, said signal distribution system including a signal splitter (RF combiner 35) for dividing said secure output signal into a plurality of service signals (RF combiner spits a signal into 12 signals for distribution to remote headends, col. 9, lines 27-36),

A loop through communication channel, coupled to all devices in the signal distribution system, by which all composite user signals are transmitted

(communication network 10 is the common communication channel by which all upstream and downstream communications flow, col. 6, lines 8-23), and

Customer devices (fig. 1, STTs 16, shown in detail in fig. 5), each coupled to said loop through communication channel and receiving said composite user signal therefrom (col. 6, lines 8-27 and col. 14, lines 35-38) and each including a filter permitting transmission of only multimedia information corresponding to a predetermined customer therethrough (tuner 100 and descrambler 112, under control of network module 70, comprise a filter for selectively transmitting multimedia information to the TV, col. 14, lines 35-53).

While Safadi further teaches some intermediate signal processing takes place at intermediate nodes in the signal distribution system (fig. 1, headends 18, col. 9, lines 55-63), Safadi fails to disclose the signal distribution system includes signal decoders each coupled to said signal splitter and receiving at least a portion of said plurality of service signals, for converting said signal portion into modulated channel signals corresponding to one predetermined user if authorized by said user authorization information and a combining circuit coupled to each of said signal decoders and receiving modulated channel signals therefrom, for combining said modulated channel signals into a composite user signal that contains only a small fraction of the multitude of different channels in the headend composite signal wherein the channels in the composite multiple user signal are those that have been requested by the end users via the customer interface devices, for transmission to the customer interface devices.

In an analogous art, Snell teaches a video distribution system (fig. 32) wherein the signal distribution system includes signal decoders (fig. 32, Node 302), each receiving at least a portion of a headend output signal (from the RF bus in fig. 32) which then decode (decompress) and then modulate the received signal portion into modulated channel signals according to the services to be provided to the customers serviced by the particular decoder (col. 18 line 48 – col. 19 line 17), wherein combining circuits (fig. 32, RF combiners) are coupled to the signal decoders for combining said modulated channel signals into a composite user signal that contains only a small fraction of the multitude of the different channels in the headend composite system (the node only remodulates those digital channels which are needed to serve the customers serviced by the node, col. 19, lines 1-7), wherein the channels in the composite user signal are those that have been requested by the end user via the customer interface device (the interactive services include user requested video on demand programs ordered via the home interface controller, col. 5 line 55 – col. 6 line 4), providing more efficient utilization of available bandwidth (col. 19, lines 10-31).

It would have been obvious at the time to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the system disclosed by Safadi to include in the signal distribution system signal decoders for receiving at least a portion of said plurality of service signals, for converting said signal portion into modulated channel signals if authorized by the user authorization information of a user (as the information is selectively recombined in accordance with the services that are to be provided to

the particular customers serviced by any one particular signal decoder) and a combining circuit coupled to each of said signal decoders and receiving modulated channel signals therefrom, for combining said modulated channel signals into a composite user signal that contains only a small fraction of the multitude of different channels in the headend composite signal, wherein the channels in the composite user signal are those that have been requested by the end user via the customer interface device, for transmission to the customer interface devices, as taught by Snell, for the benefit of more efficiently utilizing the available bandwidth in the signal distribution system.

Regarding claims 2, 22, and 32, Safadi and Snell disclose the system and method of claims 1, 21 and 31, wherein the multimedia signal sources include video signals (Safadi teaches the video information providers distribute digital video, col. 6, lines 8-11).

Regarding claims 3 and 23, Safadi and Snell disclose the systems of claims 1 and 21, wherein the multimedia signal reception connections at the headend system are fiber optic cable (Safadi, col. 6, lines 20-23).

Regarding claims 4, 12, 24, and 33, Safadi and Snell disclose the systems and method of claims 1, 11, 21, and 31, wherein the headend system includes a video processor (Safadi, fig. 2, QAM modulator 32 and RF upconverter 34) for

receiving baseband signals and modulating said baseband signals into channels and a combiner circuit (Safadi, fig. 2 RF combiner 35) coupled to said video processor, receiving said modulated channel signals and combing said channel signals into said headend composite signal (Safadi, col. 8, lines 60-65) and determining whether one or more users are authorized to receive any of said channels included in said headend composite signal (Safadi teaches individual channels are only selectively descrambled and decrypted upon reception according to user authorization, col. 14, lines 35-53, thus prior to descrambling, the system must determine if a user is authorized to receive the channel), but fail to disclose the headend system comprises receiver decoders for receiving multimedia information signals from said content sources and converting said multimedia information signals into baseband frequency signals for processing.

Snell additionally discloses receiving multimedia information from a plurality of different source types (fig. 5, sources 51), wherein the signals are converted into baseband frequency signals in order to perform processing on the signals (said processing is performed by MMCs 53, wherein the step of converting the received broadcast signals to baseband frequency is inherently necessary to perform said processing), wherein providing multimedia information from a wide variety of sources (such as satellite receivers and antenna, as listed in fig. 5) increases the viewing options available to customers.

It would have been obvious at the time to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the system disclosed by Safadi and Snell to include receiving

multimedia information from a plurality of different types of sources, such as satellite receivers and terrestrial antenna, as taught by Snell, wherein said diverse inputs would necessitate the inclusion of receiver decoders to convert the received signals to baseband frequencies so that they may be processed (by the ITEM 30, taught by Safadi), for the benefit of increasing the viewing options available to customers of the multimedia information distribution system.

Regarding claims 7 and 27, Safadi and Snell disclose the systems of claims 1 and 21, wherein said multimedia information signals include data signals (Safadi teaches the many digital services are provided, in addition to video, col. 7, lines 6-10), wherein said combiner circuit is adapted for combining said channel signals and said data signals into said headend composite signal (Safadi teaches each independent output of ITEM 30, regardless of the content or service being provided from each, are all combined at the combiner, col. 8, lines 60-65), and said distribution system further comprises a service interface coupled to each of said signal decoders (Snell teaches each decoder [302] receives the headend signal through an input port, and separates video signals, ordinary cable channels 315 in fig. 31, from data signals, digital carriers 319 in fig. 1, using a low pass filter, col.. 18 line 60 – col. 19 line 9) and a communication service module coupled to said service interface (as it is also part of the decoder) for receiving and distributing said data signals (Snell, the output of the node to feeder 74, fig. 32).

Regarding claims 8, 16, and 28, Safadi and Snell disclose the systems of claims 7, 11, and 27, wherein said signal distribution system further comprises a processor, coupled to said service interface, signal decoders, and said output interfaces which receives said authorization information from said headend system through said service interface, for controlling a selection of channels provided to said plurality of customer interface devices in accordance to said authorization information. The inclusion of such a processor for selecting channel selections provided is an inherent feature of the combination of Safadi and Snell, as Safadi teaches authorization information is included in the headend signal (entitlement control messages, col. 8, lines 26-29) that is received by the decoder (and thus through the service interface by the which the decoder receives the headend signal, Snell, node 302 in fig. 32), and the decoder selectively isolates certain channels according to services ordered (and thus authorized) by particular customers (Snell, col. 19 lines 28-31).

Regarding claims 9 and 35, Safadi and Snell disclose the system and method of claims 8 and 31, wherein said customer interface devices comprise a customer input device (Safadi, col. 15, lines 10-15), operatively coupled to said signal distribution system processor (as operations by said processor are in response to selections made on said input device), for receiving customer requests and providing such requests to said signal distribution system processor

(which receives and processes the authorization information for channel selection).

Regarding claim 15, Safadi and Snell disclose the system of claim 11, wherein there are more customer interface devices than decoders (Snell teaches there are plural customer interfaces serviced by each node, col. 19, lines 10-13).

5. Claims 5, 6, 13, 14, 25, 26, and 34 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Safadi and Snell as applied to claims 4, 12, 24, and 33 above, and further in view of Ferraro (5,151,782, of record).

Regarding claims 5, 6, 13, 14, 25, 26, and 34, Safadi and Snell disclose the systems and method of claims 4, 12, 24, and 33, but fail to disclose the headend system includes an access control system, coupled to said combiner circuit and receiving said headend composite signal therefrom, for determining whether one or more users are authorized to receive any of said channels included in said headend composite signal and a data path modulator coupled to said access control system and receiving said authorized headend composite signal therefrom, for transmitting said headend authorized composite signal and authorization information as said headend output signal.

In an analogous art, Ferraro teaches a video distribution system (fig. 1) wherein an access control system (fig. 1, encoder 12, scrambler 16, and disk memory 18) with a data path modulator (scrambler 16 also provides modulated

output in satellite transmission bands, as shown in fig. 1, wherein the output of scramber 16 is transmitted to satellite 30) is provided at the output of a headend system and is used to determine whether users are authorized to receive the channels being provided by the headend system (the encoder is provided with ordering information regarding customer orders for services, said encoder further includes authorization information for these orders in the output stream, col. 5, lines 39-63), wherein the authorization information is then combined with the headend output signal in the data path modulator to create an authorized headend output signal (inclusion of the authorization information programs the remote headends 20, with the necessary switching information to service their particular customers, col. 6, lines 30-50), said information stream programs the remote headends in such a way that it can quickly locate data relevant to its particular subscribers and provide the correct services quickly and efficiently (col. 6, lines 46-58).

It would have been obvious at the time to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the system disclosed by Safadi and Snell to include and access control system and data path modulator to determine whether users are authorized to receive any of said channels in the headend signal and subsequently transmit the headend signal and authorization information as said headend output signal, as taught by Ferraro, for the benefit of programming the signal decoders (which service particular groups of customers, as taught by

Snell) in a manner that allows them to quickly locate the data relevant to their particular subscribers and provide the correct services quickly and efficiently.

6. Claims 10 and 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Safadi and Snell as applied to claims 1 and 11 above, and further in view of Naboulsi et al. (5,805,591, of record) [Naboulsi].

Regarding claim 10, Safadi and Snell disclose the system of claim 1 but fail to disclose said customer interface devices further comprise an interface device for receiving a composite user signal from one of said output devices and dividing said signal into video and data signals, a communications modem, coupled to said interface device and receiving said data signals, for demodulating said data signals into end user signals, and a processor, coupled to said interface device and to said communications modem, for controlling said dividing and demodulating of said composite user signal to said end user signals.

In an analogous art, Naboulsi teaches a customer interface device (fig. 2) which includes an interface device (RF coupler 42) which receives a user composite signal and divides said signal into first and second RF signals (col. 5, lines 1-8, wherein the first signal is conventional RF broadcast video channel, col. 5, lines 21-30, and the second signal is a data signal consisting of an ATM multiplexed transport stream, col. 6, lines 1-30) and a modem (ATM modem 56 in fig. 2) coupled to said interface device and receiving the second RF signal for demodulating said second RF signal into end user signals (col. 6, lines 1-13) all

under the control of a system microprocessor (system microprocessor 58 in fig. 2), for the simultaneous provision of multiple services to plural subscriber devices at a subscriber location (col. 9, lines 31-40).

It would have been obvious at the time to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the system disclosed by Safadi and Snell to include an interface device for receiving a composite user signal from one of said output devices and dividing said signal into video and data signals, a communications modem, coupled to said interface device and receiving said data signals, for demodulating said data signals into end user signals, and a processor, coupled to said interface device and to said communications modem, for controlling said dividing and demodulating of said composite user signal to said end user signals, as taught by Naboulsi, for the benefit of simultaneous provision of both video and data services to plural subscriber devices at a subscriber location.

Regarding claim 17, Safadi and Snell disclose the system of claim 11, but fail to disclose each of said plurality of customer devices comprise a plurality of couplers corresponding to a different one of said plurality of customer devices and including one of said filters and a plurality of customer interface devices, each one coupled to a different one of said plurality of couplers and receiving a filtered signal therefrom.

In an analogous art, Naboulsi teaches a customer device (fig. 2) that includes a plurality of couplers which filter incoming signals (subscriber service

modules 62, 64, and 66 in communication with ATM cell MUX 60, in fig. 2, each provide different services filtered from a received multiplexed ATM stream, col. 6, lines 1-30, 45-51) and a plurality of customer interface devices (set top equipment, PCs, telephones, col. 6, lines 31-44), each one coupled to a different one of said plurality of couplers and receiving a filtered signal therefrom (through ports 72-80, col. 6, lines 31-44), for the simultaneous provision of multiple services to plural subscriber devices at a subscriber location (col. 9, lines 31-40).

It would have been obvious at the time to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the system disclosed by Safadi and Snell to include a plurality of couplers corresponding to a different one of said plurality of customer devices and including one of said filters and a plurality of customer interface devices, each one coupled to a different one of said plurality of couplers and receiving a filtered signal therefrom, as taught by Naboulsi, for the benefit of simultaneous provision of a plurality of services to plural users at a customer location.

Regarding claim 18, Safadi, Snell, and Naboulsi disclose the system of claim 17, wherein each of said customer interface devices include customer input devices for receiving requests and providing such requests to the signal distribution system processor (customers interact with the customer interface devices, the set top equipment, PCs, and telephones taught by Naboulsi, through the input devices associated with each, as set top equipment is controlled by remote controls or panel interfaces, PCs are controlled with keyboard and mouse

inputs, and telephones include numeric dial pads, and the system thus disclosed is an interactive system wherein customers make requests which are processed by all system distribution processors which handle customer requests, Safadi, col. 11, lines 45-50).

Regarding claim 19, Safadi, Snell, and Naboulsi disclose the system of claim 17, wherein said multimedia information includes data signals (Safadi teaches the many digital services are provided, in addition to video, col. 7, lines 6-10) and said combiner circuit of said headend system combining said channel signals and said data signals into said composite signal (Safadi teaches each independent output of ITEM 30, regardless of the content or service being provided from each, are all combined at the combiner, col. 8, lines 60-65), and wherein said distribution system further comprises a service interface coupled said splitter and to each of said signal decoders for receiving said split signal and dividing said split headend output signal into video and data signals (Snell teaches each decoder [302] receives the headend signal through an input port, and separates video signals, ordinary cable channels 315 in fig. 31, from data signals, digital carriers 319 in fig. 1, using a low pass filter, col.. 18 line 60 – col. 19 line 9) and a communication service module coupled to said splitter (as it is also part of the decoder) for receiving and distributing said data signals (Snell, the output of the node to feeder 74, fig. 32), wherein each of said filters comprises a first filter for filtering a video portion of said composite multiple user

signal and a second filter for filtering said data signals (upon combining Safadi and Snell with Naboulsi, the signal filters in each customer device separates all individual services from each other, isolating services for delivery to customer interface devices, Naboulsi, col. 6, lines 1-44).

Regarding claim 20, Safadi, Snell, and Naboulsi disclose the system of claim 19, wherein said first filter comprises a tuner operable only by said signal distribution system (Safadi, tuner 110 in fig. 2 is under direct control of the network module 70, col. 14, lines 50-53).

7. Claims 29 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Safadi and Snell as applied to claim 21 above, and further in view of Williams (5,970,386, of record).

Regarding claims 29 and 30, Safadi and Snell disclose the system of claim 21, but fail to disclose multiple point of presence systems are operatively coupled by wireless communication channels and the point of presence systems are coupled with said signal distribution means by wireless communication channels.

In an analogous art, Williams teaches a video distribution system (fig. 1) wherein point of presence systems (trasmodulators 20 provide video services to local areas, col. 5, lines 19-36) communicate with each other and to receiver units over wireless communication channels (col. 5, lines 52-59), wherein

wireless communication allows the devices to share video and data information without regards to geographic limitations.

It would have been obvious at the time to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the system disclosed by Safadi and Snell to include multiple point of presence systems that are operatively coupled by wireless communication channels and the point of presences systems are coupled with said signal distribution means by wireless communication channels, enabling a dynamic communication between point of presence systems for sharing received services and other information and for distributing multimedia information to the signal distribution means all without regards to geographic limitations.

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new grounds of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

9. The following are suggested formats for either a Certificate of Mailing or Certificate of Transmission under 37 CFR 1.8(a). The certification may be included with all correspondence concerning this application or proceeding to establish a date of mailing or transmission under 37 CFR 1.8(a). Proper use of this procedure will result in such communication being considered as timely if the established date is within the required period for reply. The Certificate should be signed by the individual actually depositing or transmitting the correspondence or by an individual who, upon information and belief, expects the correspondence to be mailed or transmitted in the normal course of business by another no later than the date indicated.

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Signature: _____

Please refer to 37 CFR 1.6(d) and 1.8(a)(2) for filing limitations concerning facsimile transmissions and mailing, respectively.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dominic D. Saltarelli whose telephone number is (571) 272-7302. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:00am - 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Grant can be reached on (571) 272-7294. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Dominic Saltarelli
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2611

DS

HAITRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER